



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that ten individuals were indicted on September 8, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Topeka, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- **Joshua E. Lucas**, 28, Burlington, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with one count of making a false written statement to a licensed firearm dealer to obtain a firearm on June 10, 2004; one count of being a felon in possession of a rifle on June 10, 2004; one count of being a felon in possession of a rifle on July 16, 2004; and one count of being a felon in possession of 29 firearms including rifles, shotguns, and a pistol on July 16, 2004, all in Anderson County, Kansas.

If convicted, Lucas faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, on each count. The case was investigated by the Coffey County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Hendershot.

- **Stephan T. Bishop**, 54, Leavenworth, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm on April 3, 2004; three counts of using intimidation with the intent to prevent the testimony of a person in an official proceeding from June 26, 2004, through July 15, 2004; and three counts of threatening to use physical force in an attempt to prevent the testimony of a person in an official proceeding from July 17, 2004, through August 10, 2004, in Johnson County, Kansas.

If convicted, Bishop faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, on each count. The case was investigated by the Gardner Police Department, the Lenexa

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Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead.

- **Margaret C. Sanchez**, 26, El Paso, Texas, currently in custody, is charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 7 kilograms (approximately 15.4 pounds) of cocaine on August 12, 2004, in Lyon County, Kansas.

If convicted, Sanchez faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Osage County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Mattivi.

- **Susana Avila-Agramon**, 27, Delta, Colorado, **Jose Renteria-Higuera**, 32, Phoenix, Arizona, **Omar Aguiluz-Nunez**, 21, Meza, Arizona, each currently in custody, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute in excess of 500 grams (in excess of 1.1 pounds) of methamphetamine from sometime prior to August 1, 2004, through August 2, 2004, in Geary County, Kansas. Renteria-Higuera and Aguiluz-Nunez are also charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 3.3 kilograms (approximately 7.26 pounds) of methamphetamine on August 1, 2004, and Avila-Agramon is also charged with one count of attempting to possess with the intent to distribute approximately 3.3 kilograms (approximately 7.26 pounds) of methamphetamine on August 2, 2004, all in Geary County, Kansas.

If convicted, each face a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison, without parole, on each count. The case was investigated by the Geary County Sheriff's Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Mattivi.

- **Castro Mario Hernandez**, 36, Mexico, and **Ruben Urias-Bojorouez**, 41, Los Angeles, California, each currently in custody, are charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more (1.1 pounds or more) of methamphetamine on September 1, 2004, in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

If convicted, each face a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheri McCracken.

- **Link Wesley Powell**, 39, Las Vegas, Nevada, is charged with one count of willfully failing to pay past due child support from July 1998 through the present as ordered by the District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas, for an amount in excess of \$10,000.

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If convicted, Powell faces a maximum of two years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Hendershot.

- **Julian Perez-Perez**, age unknown, Mexico, currently in custody, is charged with fifteen counts of transporting illegal aliens on August 20, 2004, and one count of illegally re-entering the United States after having been deported.

The indictment alleges that on August 20, 2004, Perez-Perez transported 15 illegal aliens, all citizens of Mexico, in a cargo van in Shawnee County, Kansas.

If convicted, Perez-Perez faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, on each count of transporting illegal aliens and a maximum of two years for illegally re-entering the United States. The case was investigated by the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Hendershot.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.